

JMG NEWS



March 2009

Jobs for Montana's Graduates

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPECIALIST



In each upcoming edition of the JMG newsletter we would like to spotlight a JMG Specialist who is doing some extraordinary activities in their JMG classroom. This month we are spotlighting **Joe Barbero** and his JMG class at Billings Career Center.

Congratulations Joe for a job well done!



In his own words: I have been a teacher and school administrator for over twenty years. I began my career teaching business education in Pryor, Montana (Plenty Coups High School). I taught a variety of classes (keyboarding, accounting, graphics, computer literacy, etc.) utilizing one of the first MacIntosh Labs in the area. We then began implementing the teaching of foreign languages using satellite technology (STAR) to teach Native American students Spanish and German.



I wrote many grants that covered a wide spectrum of educational topics. These included my content area (Business and Technology) through the Liberal Arts (English, Science and Math). My administrative experience started in Pryor and lasted for eight years there. As the Superintendent/Principal/Athletic Director I was responsible for building buildings, buying new buses, traveling to Washington, D.C. for many meetings, sitting on several State committees on Indian Education and generally, making learning fun and exciting for many Native American youth.



I moved to Alaska for a year to be a Principal in a remote Eskimo village. Living in Teller, Alaska was quite an experience but after spending several months living in the darkness and cold, I moved back to Montana and took a job as the Superintendent in Saco, Montana. Two years later I moved back to Billings and am now the Jobs for Montana Graduates Teacher/Career Specialist at the Billings Career Center. I have always believed in Vocational Education and am very thrilled to be a part of the staff at this fine school. I work directly with over one hundred students on a daily basis and I probably have contact with fifty more throughout the day. It is a busy and rewarding occupation and I am glad to be a part of JMG.

Billings Career Center JMG Celebrates Success!

Second Semester of 2008/2009 school year boasts enrollment of 90 students. These students participate in the Billings Career Center's JMG program from Billings Senior, Skyview, and West High Schools. A melting pot for 11th & 12th grade students, the program provides an array of opportunities for those that engage in the classroom and community activities. Mr. Barbero and the JMG students embrace the Mission Statement of the Career Center: *The Billings Career Center prepares secondary students academically and socially for service in the community by providing a program that stresses work ethics, technological literacy, industry-driven skills, critical thought, effective communication, respect for diversity and equality, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and follow the rigorous Jobs for Montana Curriculum.*

1. Print shop: The JMG students manage the BCC Print shop by providing services to the staff; that include doing all printing, collating, mailings, and maintenance of equipment.
2. Saturday Live: Our students participate in Saturday Live, a massive fundraising project that takes place in the fall of the year. Students gear up for what is usually inclement weather, man various booths, and participate in a variety of well planned fundraising activities from selling popcorn, cotton candy to hot chocolate and chili.
3. Pilot Win Work Keys Assessment System: Mr. Barbero and Ms. Ronda McManus rolled up their sleeves and introduced the JMG to the system that addresses and evaluates various skills:

Skills Include:

Speak so others can understand
Read and Understand

Listen actively
Use math to solve problems

Cooperate with others

The task at hand was monumental, but Mr. Barbero, Ms. McManus, and the JMG students forged ahead with excellent results.

4. Community Service Involvement: Women's Shelter

Volunteer at: Billings Food Bank, St. Vincent DePaul, and the Rescue Mission

Joe is what we at the Career Center call a "Kid Magnet" (we are fortunate to have quite a few). Joe is providing his students with real world application by getting them involved in real world situations.

The list of activities can go on and on. Most importantly, the students of the Billings Career Center are experiencing some phenomenal life opportunities through the JMG program.

The JMG Program at the Billings Career Center continues to expand and flourish as Mr. Barbero tirelessly provides opportunities ranging from a smile and hug in the morning to providing afterschool employment possibilities for his students.

Article submitted by Mr. Stan Barr, Billings Career Center Principal

Student Stories



One of my most fun students was a young lady by the name of Amanda Yarbrough. She was one of my officers last year and worked very hard to get through high school. She traveled with me to Helena for the Leadership Conference in the fall and was a great help in the spring at the Career Development Conference. Amanda always had photography in mind as a vocation and she always kept that in mind as a career option. She currently works for LifeTouch as a photographer and was at the Billings Career Center last week taking pictures of our Early Childhood students. I am really proud of her and her dedication to pursuing what she wants in life.



"Santa Claus for a Cause"

One of the projects that we did this year was to provide Christmas presents to a needy family. We joined a local radio station (Hot101) that was promoting the "Santa Claus for a Cause" program throughout Billings. The family that needed our help included a mother and four children (ages 6 to 14) who had very few resources during the holidays.



The Career Center JMG students were up to the task. They sold cotton candy and pop corn between classes for three days and earned over \$500 for presents. We added about \$200 to the amount from a previous fundraiser so that we could purchase gift cards to Albertson's for food. Students met with Mr. Barbero at Wal-Mart on a Sunday afternoon to pick out presents for three girls and one boy. We were able to get several nice presents (each) for the mother and her children. All the presents were wrapped on a Monday and delivered to the radio station in time for a Christmas celebration. Over one hundred JMG students participated in raising funds, wrapping and delivering presents.

Note: Pictures include those students who participated in this event.



Cleanup Efforts

Every fall and spring the JMG classes at the Billings Career Center conduct a parking lot and grounds cleanup effort. This year is no different for these ambitious students. The Career Center has several acres of parking lots and fences that seem to collect all manner of garbage. This fall we collected about sixty bags of garbage in one day as each of the five classes participated before winter hit. We will be getting outside again as soon as spring weather allows.



(Saturday Live story continued) things that a general fund budget won't provide to the classroom. This fundraiser will raise money for computers, software, books, supplies, trips, etc. In the case of the Billings Career Center, our efforts raise funds for scholarships, Christmas presents for the needy, supplies for the classroom, travel and so on.

Saturday Live



One of the most interesting fundraisers that the Billings JMG students get involved with is the Saturday Live event held each September at Pioneer Park, in Billings, Montana.

The fundraiser is a school district project to earn that extra money needed for all the

The students all sign up for a two hour stint in the park (held all day on a Saturday). We will make cotton candy, pop corn, snow cones and Italian sodas for hundreds of people who attend the event. Most of the time the weather cooperates and we can earn over a thousand dollars for our projects. About fifty students participate throughout the event which helps them meet the Community Service goals of the MCA program.

(Left) John Cahoon, Zane Job & Mr. Barbero making Snow Cones

REMINDERS

JMG PR Event March 20th at the Capitol Rotunda-Helena
CDC Registration Due March 23rd
Scholarship Application Deadline March 23rd
School Monitoring Visits March 23rd-April 10th

~Upcoming Event~
Career Development Conference
Billing Hotel & Convention Center
May 5th & 6th

PLEASE!!

Send your classroom stories & photos for the next edition of the JMG newsletter!

Best Practices

Please log onto the following JMG website link for Best Practices submitted by JMG Specialists

<http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/jmg/jmgbestpractice.asp>

Contact Us:

Jim Lambert (444-3354)
jlambert@mt.gov

Cathy Yetter (444-1713)
cyyetter@mt.gov

Lucille Thomason (444-2534)
lthomason@mt.gov

Drea Brown (444-0978) dbrown@mt.gov